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Ruth Hardy's
Wildflower
Nursery

Falls Village, Conn.

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Spring
and
Fall



RUTH HARDY—Horticulturist & Consultant

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GENERAL INFORMATION

No order less than \$5.00. Each order personally packed. Will replace without charge stock that is not in good condition, provided you let me know at once. If plants shipped express, charges collect. If by mail postage with remittance is 10% East of Mississippi, 20% West of Mississippi.

To all my old customers and new, my aim is conservation. When I know of an area being devastated by steam shovels and bulldozers I try to save some of the many wild plants being destroyed, by bringing them into the nursery for propagation.

Prices except where otherwise noted are:

50c each singly

3-9 plants of a kind 45c each

10-24 plants of a kind 40c each

Wildflowers

Anemone, False Rue

Amonella thalictroides

Dainty leaves, 3-6 inches tall. White flowers, one of early spring blossomers. Easily grown, partial shade. Tiny bulbs.

Arbutus

Epigaea repens

We have only a very limited supply of this beautiful and famous wildflower. Since few people have luck growing it, and it requires acid soil, we hope you won't order it unless you have the proper habitat. Partial shade is best. Don't permit to dry out the first season. Only one plant to a customer.

\$1.00 each.

Baneberry, Red

Actea rubra

White feathery blossom cluster in May, coral red, oval berries; 2-3 feet. Shade or partial shade, damp or dry sites.

Baneberry, White

Dolls Eye Berrys

Similar to red, as to foliage, but berries white, likened to doll's eyes. Same site conditions and size as the red baneberry, but blooms a little later.

Bishop's Cap, Mitrewort

Mitella diphylla

Pencil-thin flower stalks with tiny cap-shaped blossoms. April to May, 8-16 in. Good ground cover and rock garden plant. Easy to grow.

Bloodroot

Sanguinaria canadensis

Snow-white large flowers with golden centers in spring; plant 8 in. tall. Heart-shaped leaves persist all summer. Dry, to slightly moist neutral soil, shade.

Bluebells of Scotland

Campanula rotundifolia

Grows almost anywhere, very hardy, easy to raise. Dainty, very attractive little blue bells in late summer. 1-1½ ft. tall. Prefers sun.

Bonset, Thoroughwort

Equatorium perfoliatum

Wet soil plant, 2-4 ft. tall. White terminal blossoms in August and September. Interesting leaves seem to grow through the stems. Old medicinal plant.

Canada Mayflower

Maianthemum canadense

A small shade loving plant. The leaves are usually heart-shaped at the base, the flowers are white, on small spikes which look feathery. The attractive berries are yellowish-white spotted with brown from Aug. to Sept., turning a translucent rich red Sept. to Oct. Prefer slightly acid soil.

Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

The brightest red in nature are these blossoms, Aug. to Sept. Prefers damp soil and sun, but will grow on drier, shadier sites. 2-4 ft. tall. Fertilized by humming birds. Seed and rootstock regeneration.

Clintonia Bluebeard

Clintonia borealis

Leaves 5 to 8 in., often flat on ground, shiny, resemble showy orchis leaves. Blossoms yellow, in terminal cluster 6 to 16 in. above ground, bell-shaped, ¾ in. long, in June. Striking true blue berries by late summer. Shade. Good fern companion. Acid Soil.

Cohosh, Blue

Caulophyllum thalictroides

Compound leaf at top of long stem, 1-3 ft. tall. Small yellow flowers; intensely blue berries by late summer. Shade. Good fern companion.

Columbine, Wild

Aquilegia canadensis

Excellent rock garden plant, but grows almost anywhere. Red and yellow spurred flowers. May to June, stay in blossom several weeks. 1-1½ ft. 35c each.

Dutchman's Breeches

Dicentra cucullaria

A dainty spring wildflower. Neutral soil, 4 to 7 inches high.

Foamflower, False Mitrewort

Tiarella cordifolia

Attractive ground cover for shady places. Runner roots, leaves maple-shaped, blossoms in white feathery spikes from May to June. Leaves 4 to 8 in. high, blossom spikes 4 to 6 in. higher.

Forget-me-not

Myosotis scorpioides

This garden escape is now considered a wild flower of our swamps and streams. The blossoms are ¼ in. broad on loose, curving racemes, light blue with yellow eyes from May to July. Requires moisture and sun. Pools and brooks.

Gentian, Bottle

Gentiana andersii

Several bottle-shaped, intense blue flowers in terminal and leaf-base clusters in late summer. Perennial. Damp, partial shade, also like sun if soil wet. 12-18 in. tall.

Ginger, Wild

Asarum canadense

Heart-shaped leaf, with odd brown-purple blossoms close to the soil in May. Ginger odor when handled. Moist shade. 35c each.

Globeflower

Trollius laxus

This is one of the less common wildflowers. Its blossoms look like clusters of small yellow tulips. The plant must have wet soil and partial shade.

Goldthread

Coptis trifolia

The shiny, dark green, evergreen leaves, 1 to 2 in. broad, close to the ground, form an attractive ground cover in shady sites with acid soil. Small white flowers on very slender stems, 3 to 6 in. high, June to July. Creeping fine, gold-colored roots.

Grass of Parnassus

Parnassia caroliniana

Waxy leaves, white flower with green veins, mid to late summer. Damp soil in open sun. 6-10 inches.

Hepatica, Round-lobed

Hepatica triloba

Earliest flower of spring. Leaves persist in winter, liver-lobe shaped. Good as rock garden or indoor terrarium plants. 3-6 in. Lavender to blue.

Hepatica, Sharp-lobed

Hepatica acutiloba

Similar to Round-leaved Hepatica, but leaves have sharp points, and the blossoms are light lilac to white.

Herb Robert

Geranium robertianum

Perennial. Ornamental leaves with ruddy stems, aromatic. Small pink blossoms persistent through summer. Partial shade, damp to dry sites or rocks and open sun.

Iris, Blue Flag

Iris versicolor

Damp or moist ground, 2-3 ft. Rich blue flowers in June. Meadow, brook and ponds.

Iris, Crested Dwarf

Iris cristata

Leaf narrow, tapers at both ends; 4 to 9 in. long, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide. Flowers very light violet, the broad outer divisions crested with 3 raised parallel flutings, the middle one being orange. Likes dry to moist, acid soil, partial shade in full sun. Flowers in May. Attractive in wild garden or rock garden.

Iris, Vernal

Iris verna

A tiny Iris, with grass-like leaves up to 7 in. long. Blossoms violet blue with orange centers in May. Shade to semi-shade. Good in rock gardens.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit

Arisaema triphyllum

An interesting hooded plant! a favorite with children. Damp to drier shady spots. Orange-red berries. Try forcing bulbs indoors. Plant them the same as paper narcissus bulbs, in a bowl with stones and water, and add a little soil. They grow about an inch a day once they start. Indoor Jacks make excellent Christmas gifts.

40c each.

Joe Pye Weed

Eupatorium purpureum

Large, moist soil plant, 3-7 ft. tall, raspberry-red blossoms in top clusters. Open sun, blooms in August. Good near ponds and meadows.

Lily, Meadow

Lilium canadense

Orange lilies with purple-brown spots inside. One to seven or more blossoms, 2-4 ft. tall. Open sun, moist to drier soil.

Lobelia, Blue

Lobelia syphilitica

Similar to Cardinal Flower in form and growth requirements, but the blossoms are a handsome purplish-blue. July to Sept.

Marsh Marigold, Cowslip

Caltha palustris

Leaves round or kidney-shaped, edible raw or cooked. Blossoms bright yellow, similar to buttercup but larger, from April to May. Moist soil essential, and prefers sun. Good around ponds and brooks.

Mayapple, Mandrake

Podophyllum peltatum

Umbrella-like leaves form elevated ground carpet. Waxy, white flowers underneath, Apr. to May produce apple-like berry. 1-2 ft.

New England Aster

Aster novaeangliae

A tall, sturdy wild aster with terminal clusters of many-rayed purple blossoms Aug. to Sept. From 2-6 ft. tall, in open sun, neutral to sweet, even poor soil. Good background in cultivated flower garden.

Rue, Early Meadow

Thalictrum dioicum

A dainty, slender plant with scalloped leaves and small greenish-white flowers in terminal clusters, Apr. to May. Similar to Tall Meadow Rue but smaller. Good company for medium-sized ferns. Likes a little shade but will grow in the sun.

Rue, Tall Meadow

Thalictrum polygamum

Misty white flowers, tall slender branches, July to Sept. Prefers damp meadows, but grows almost anywhere. Excellent in with large ferns.

Saxifrage, Rock

Saxifraga virginensis

A small rock plant which likes dry sites. Prefers sun; stands partial shade if dry. Leaves a rosette close to ground. Small white flowers in clusters, stems 3 to 9 inches high.

Saxifrage, Swamp

Saxifraga pennsylvanica

Leaves much larger than above species; make interesting cover for wet spots. Flowers greenish-white, not as attractive as above species, stems 12 to 30 in. high. Sun or partial shade.

Snakeroot, Black

Cimifugga racemosa

A very large and striking woodland plant, excellent to mix with large ferns, or as a background. Compound, sharply-toothed leaves form rather heavy foliage that attains 3 to 7 ft. height. Feathery white flowers 6 to 20 in. branched, wand-like spikes, June to July.

65c each.

Solomon's Seal, False

Smilacina racemosa

White fluffy blossoms at tip of stem, in May producing white-and-red, then translucent berries. 1-3 ft., shade or sun.

Solomon's Seal, Giant

Polygonatum commutatum

Very graceful, 2-4 ft. tall, bell-like blossoms pendulous under the leaves in June; large purple-blue berries. Partial shade to sun.

Solomon's Seal, True

Polygonatum biflorum

Very similar to the Giant variety, but smaller, and likes more shade. 1-2 ft., blooms May to June, dark blue berries in early fall.

Star Grass, Yellow

Hypoxis hirsuta

Grass-like leaves; flower stems arise in the center, 2 to 6 in. high, bearing one to seven deep yellow, 1/2 in. blossoms. Likes dry soil in sun or semi-shade.

Trillium, Painted

Trillium undulatum

White, with crimson stripe, May to June. 8-16 in. Likes shade and borders of woodlands, and must have acid soil.
(See page 17 on Planting hints)

Trillium, Red Wakerobin

Trillium erectum

Leaves broad and abruptly pointed. Flowers a maroon red, petals 1 1/2 in. long, on a reclining stem, blooming in April to May. Dark red seed pods. Shady sites; prefers damp soil but will grow on upland soil.

Trillium, Snow

Trillium grandiflorum

Blossoms late May to June, white turning to pink. 10-18 in. high, petals 2-3 in. long. Moist, partial shade, good neutral garden soil. Excellent in flower borders, occurs in open woodlands.

Twisted Stalk

Streptopus roseus

Interesting zig-zag stem, with bell-shaped tiny white to pinkish blossoms in June. A handsome red berry for each blossom late summer to early fall. Cold, damp woods. Plant 1½ to 2 ft. tall.

Violet, Bird-foot

Viola pedata

The leaves are finely divided. The blossoms are the largest of the violets, from 1 to 1½ in. across; light violet with orange-tipped stamens. May-June. The plant grows from 4 to 10 inches in height and insists upon dry sandy soil and open sun.

Violet, Canada

Viola canadensis

One of our tallest violets, sweet-scented, light purple outside, white inside; blossoms a little later than above species. Partial shade to sun; 5-15 in. tall.

Violet, Downy Yellow

Viola pubescens

Leaves are downy beneath, golden yellow flowers in May, plant 6-12 in. tall. Dry shady sites, rock gardens.

Violet, Palmate-leaved

Viola palmata

Unusually deep lobed leaves for a violet plant. Flowers bright, light violet and fairly large in early summer. Dry ground, shade or sun.

Violet, Smooth Yellow

Viola scabriuscula

Two to four stems from one rootstock. More slender and not quite as tall as the Downy Yellow. Blossoms April to early May, prefers shade.

Ferns

Beech Fern, Broad

Dryopteris hexagonoptera

Winged woodfern. Triangular fronds. Shade or partial shade, damp to dryer sites, neutral soil. Height 12-18 in.

Beech Fern, Narrow

Phegopteris polypodioides

Triangle-shaped fronds, 3 to 10 in. long. Succession of fronds all season, only one frond present at a time. Creeping rootstocks. Bottom pair of pinnae grow downward, and outward. Moist to fairly dry sites; prefers shade, but will grow in sun if not too dry.

Bladder, Berry

Cystopteris bulbifera

Brookside, damp shade. Graceful, slender fern, 2-3 ft., half reclining.

Bladder, Fragile

Cystopteris fragilis

More delicate than above, and about one-third in size. Dormant in August. An early fern, loves rocks.

Christmas Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides

Evergreen fronds up to 20 inches long. Likes good shade, enough moisture. Plant the crowns even with ground surface.

Cinnamon Fern

Osmunda cinnamomea

One of our largest ferns, attaining 3-5 ft. Husky fronds, attractive, cinnamon-colored fertile frond arises from center of the plant. Excellent background. Shade or semi-shade. 60c each.

Clinton Fern

Dryopteris clintoniana

An evergreen, preferring shade or partial shade. Attains 2-3 ft. Likes slightly acid to neutral soil.

Crested Shield Fern

Dryopteris cristata

Usually found on hummocks in partially shaded bogs. 1/3 ft., the sterile fronds are evergreen.

Evergreen Woodfern

Dryopteris marginalis

Leathery, evergreen, dark blue-green. Deep shade, likes loose stones in the soil. 2 ft. tall.

Interrupted Fern

Osmunda claytoniana

One of our large native ferns, often confused with Cinnamon Fern. Spore cases occur along center of fertile fronds, giving interrupted appearance. 60c each

Lady Fern

Athrium felixfemina

An easy fern to grow, 2-3 ft., partial shade or full shade. Dry or damp soil. Fronds grow in circular tufts from large rootstock.

Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum pedatum

Slender, wiry stems, topped by delicate, unique fronds, each tiny part like a ginkgo tree leaf. Likes rotted hardwood leaves. Shade.

Marsh Fern

Dryopteris thelypteris

Medium-sized fern, 10-20 in. Very upright, likes moist meadow lands.

New York Fern

Dryopteris noveboracensis

Medium size, noticeable tapering at both ends of the fronds. Prefers shade, but will grow in sun, 1-2 ft. tall. Damp or dry sites.

Oak Fern

Phegopteris dryopteris

Small, triangular fronds, 4 to 6 in. wide and high, yellow green. Likes shady pine, hemlock and spruce woods. Spreading rootstock, new fronds all summer.

Ostrich Fern

Pteritis nodulosa

Tall, plume-like fronds in almost a perfect circle. Does very well under cultivation. Borders, brooksides, foundation planting.

Polypody Fern

Polopodium vulgare

A small evergreen fern, used in indoor dishes. 3-6 in. Shade. Forms mats on rocks.

Purple Cliff Brake

Pallaea atropurpurea

Leathery-leaved, long, slender, blue-green fronds. Prefers rock niches, especially limestone, evergreen. At its best in winter. 4-10 in. long. Pinnules heart-shaped at base.

Rattlesnake Fern

Botrychium virginianum

Occurs in dry, open woods. Triangular fronds, finely cut, delicate. 1-2 ft. tall.

Royal Fern

Osmunda regalis

Either moist or dry sites, sun or shade, but best grown in partial shade, where some dampness. Graceful, wide spreading, 2-3 ft. tall. 60c each.

Sensitive Fern

Onoclea sensibilis

One of the easiest to grow, good cover for bare spots, 8-16 in., spreads rapidly. Don't mix with other ferns.

Spinulose Fern

Dryopteris spinulose

Medium size. Extensively used with cut flowers. Shade to partial shade.

Spleenwort, Ebony

Asplenium platyneuron

Shaded rocks, especially limestone. Excellent for indoor dishes. Evergreen sterile fronds, 4-8 inches. Sun or shade.

Spleenwort, Silvery

Athrium acrostichoides

Fruit dots on back of fronds have a silvery sheen. Two to three feet tall. Roots spread moderately. Rich, moist woods sites; likes vicinity of shaded streams and swamps.

Walking Fern

Camptosorus rhizophyllus

Has a fascinating way of producing new plants by growing from the leaf tips. Some shade, prefers limestone rocks. 4-12 in. We send small piece of limestone with each plant; place under roots.

**Woodsia, Common,
Blunt-lobed Woodsia**

Woodsia obtusa

Bright sun to partial shade. Usually occurs on rocks. 6-20 in.

Woodsia, Rusty

Woodsia ilvensis

A dry rock fern that likes open sun. Plant in rock crevices with a tiny bit of soil.

PLANTING HINTS

ROCK FERNS

Ferns such as the Polypody should be held in place for a few weeks until they have had a chance to get a toehold without their roots drying out. This is easily done by placing a few small stones on them. Hold a fern in a rock crevice with a small stone until it has taken hold.

Remember — Nature's plants will thrive under adverse conditions, during the open winter, drought and flood.

Native plants furnish much interest and satisfaction to those who follow nature's lead. She cooperates.

THE CHANCES OF SURVIVAL

May we suggest, in the interest of conservation, that you buy at least three of one kind of wildflower. When you buy only one of a kind, cross pollination cannot take place. Also, it has been our experience that wildflowers seem to want the company of their own kind. One lone plant either doesn't live long or it survives in a weak sort of way, even in the best habitat. Two do a little better, but still not as well as they should. A cluster of no less than three seems to be the best assurance of survival, assuming, of course, that other factors are suitable such as soil, moisture and shade conditions.

If your plant budget is limited, it is better to buy three or more of one or two kinds now, and add to your variety later, than to buy one of six different kinds. We have no rules about this; you are free to make your own choice. But for the sake of the wildflowers and their future, this is our advice.

WILDFLOWER SEEDS

Many requests come in for wildflower seeds. But we make no attempt to carry them for many and justifiable reasons. Very few wildflower seeds produce plants which will develop blossoms in less than three years. Most of these seeds take their time germinating, often not sprouting for three or four or even more years. Once they do sprout they take that many more years to reach blossoming size. They are children of Nature, untamed like the cultivated garden seeds; and Nature is never in a hurry. Some of the *Ladyslippers* for instance, don't reach blossoming stage until twelve years after the seeds germinate and that's not counting how long it takes for the seeds to make up their minds to sprout. Experiments with wild seeds have shown that they remain viable in the soil for at least 53 years.

To add to the difficulties, the seeds must be protected from small wild rodents, from drying out, drowning, or blowing away over the years. Soil acidity, moisture and light conditions must be right for germinating or the seeds will wait yet another year. Only botanists and nursery people usually have such patience and can give the necessary care.

Some concerns do offer wildflower seeds. We have tried them and found they are weed species such as clover, the hawkweeds, *Queen Anne's lace*, the goldenrods and field daisies. The only satisfactory way we know of obtaining the desirable decorative wildflowers is to buy the plants. Then you know what you have, and you don't wait a decade for them.

Ruth Hardy's
Wildflower Nursery
FALLS VILLAGE, CONN.

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